



## OREGON FIRE CODE Interpretations and Technical Advisories

A collaborative service by local and state fire professionals, along with our stakeholders and customers, to provide consistent and concise application of Oregon's fire prevention and life safety regulations.

**Date:** April 1, 2014

**Ruling:** Technical Advisory No. 14-01(Revised #10-01)

**Subject:** Fumigation and Insecticidal Fogging

**Code Reference:** 2014 Oregon Fire Code, Chapter 26

**Content:** Alternative methods for Sections 2603.3.3 Watch Personnel.

Section 2603.3.3 states “During the period fumigation is in progress, except when fumigation is conducted in a gas-tight vault or tank, a responsible watchperson shall remain on duty at the entrance or entrances to the enclosed fumigated space until after the fumigation is completed and the building, structure or space is properly ventilated and safe for occupancy. Sufficient watchers shall be provided to prevent persons from entering the enclosed space under fumigation without being observed.”

The following questions have been asked:

**Question 1:** What is considered “sufficient watchers”?

**Answer 1:** A minimum of one watchperson must be posted at each entrance to the building, structure or space being fumigated. Watchpersons must discourage or prevent entry by unauthorized and unprotected individuals until fumigation is completed; the building, structure or space has been ventilated and the building, structure or space is again ready for occupancy.

**Question 2:** What is considered “an entrance or entrances to the enclosed fumigated space”?

**Answer 2:** An entrance to the enclosed fumigated space would be any accessible doorway from the exterior to the interior of the building, structure or space.

**Alternative Method(s):** In lieu of strict compliance as outlined in questions 1 and 2 the fumigator in charge may use approved security devices on exterior doors as an alternative method to having watchpersons at each entrance to the building, structure or space. A *minimum* of one watchperson is required to remain on the outside to make regular rounds during the

fumigation process to make sure all doors remain secure. The fumigator in charge shall insure that all watchpersons on the outside have knowledge on how to remove the security devices.

A minimum of one watchperson shall be required to remain onsite until the building, structure or space is ready for occupancy after the fumigation process is complete. The watchperson(s) may be employed by a private security firm.

The watchperson(s) shall comply with all of the following,

a) Make regular rounds of the building or structure, and

**Exception:** A monitored security camera system may be an acceptable substitute for a roving patrol if the camera system is monitored onsite by an alert and capable watchperson located at the main entrance and meets all the conditions in sub-sections b, c, and d.

b) Have an approved way of reporting an emergency (e.g. cell phone), and

c) Have a copy of the MSDS sheet(s) for the pesticides used and that is available for fire department and other emergency responders, and

d) Have a basic knowledge of the fumigation chemical in use and emergency procedures.

**Other References:** Manufacturer's Labeling Instructions. If the manufacturer's labeling instructions for watchpersons are more stringent they shall supersede this alternative method.